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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Background of Djilas Removal

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1. In previous reports, it was stated that the main reasons for the removal of Djilas were ideological ones. This opinion seems to be confirmed by new developments inside the Croatian People's Republic. Dusan Dimnic, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Republic of Croatia, has been removed from his position. Dimnic was the chief editor of the newspaper "Naprijed" ("Forward"), published by the Croatian Communist Party. This paper first began to appear illegally in 1943, and since 1945 has been openly published in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb. Besides Dimnic who will be sentenced and has been removed by the Central Committee, there will be several other Communist newspapermen who share his fate, such as Zivko Vnuk, Berto Crnja, Milan Despot, Ivan Zic and Tomo Djurinovio. All of these editors, like Dimnic, are suspected of having betrayed the Communist idea. In reality they have been zealous Titoists.
2. The removal of Djilas is more important than people originally thought it would be. About three months before the removal of Djilas, he contacted Kardelj and is reported to have said to Kardelj that he (Djilas) would undertake certain steps to safeguard the security of the state and Party. Djilas is reported to have told Kardelj that Tito was too soft and pompous. Since Kardelj did not protest these unorthodox remarks Djilas was of the impression that Kardelj agreed with him. Djilas is reported to have further stated to Kardelj that Tito was ready for a museum and that he (Tito) prevents progress. Djilas is reported to have sensed the fact that Tito was moving closer to the East, whereas his own philosophy was more of coexistence and independent Marxist state. Djilas planned to establish two new political parties, one a Socialist Democratic (Titoist) Party, and the other an Agrarian or Peasants' Party. The third party would be the Communist Party as such. However, all of these parties would be naturally Communist dominated and slanted. Djilas planned to make himself the head of the first mentioned party.

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Djilas was of the impression that he had gained the support of most of the leading Communist and Titoist leaders in Serbia and Croatia for this proposal. It was the opinion of Djilas and those who surrounded him that the creation of these parties would create the necessary strength which could eventually lead to the overthrow of Tito, and replace him with someone more acceptable to Djilas and his group. Djilas' chief collaborator in Croatia was Gustav Sprijan, a member of the Central Committee of the Croatian Communist Party and the Director of the Party's Middle School for Marxists. Sprijan died 23 Jan 54, cause unknown - rumored either suicide or murder. It is reported that only the Slovenian Communist Party remained outside the Djilas movement.

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